

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 21-22 have been amended.

In the last Official Action, all claims were rejected as either anticipated or obvious in view of Buck, O'Neil and/or Ainsbury. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant maintains that none of the claims in the present application are shown or suggested by the cited references.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner has asserted that steps (b) and (c) (i.e., “(b) determining the relevance of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words relating to the specified subject; (c) determining the content type of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words indicating content type”) are taught by col. 4, lines 60-66 of Buck, which read as follows:

“The subscriber for a Web site thus has the opportunity to determine in competitive monetary terms where their cite appears in the search results. This eliminates the use of arbitrary factors to compute a relevance ranking, or a subjective determination of value by the search service, and instead allows the subscriber to direct control over their Web site listing.”

As amended, claim 1 (and claims 21-23) require that the “relevancy” and “content type” determinations for each Web page be made automatically, i.e., by a machine. In the cited portion of the Buck reference, the “relevancy” and “content type” determinations (to the extent that they are made at all) are made by the subscriber - - rather than automatically using a machine. In view of this distinction, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 (and claims 21-23) are not anticipated by Buck.

With respect to dependent claim 7, the Examiner has asserted that Figure 4A, and corresponding text in Buck discloses the following claimed limitation: “wherein the plurality of Web sites is selected based on the frequency with which relevant links have

been located in prior iterations of the method with respect to the subject.” Applicant has examined Figure 4A of the Buck reference, as well as the text describing that figure, and has been unable to find any feature or passage which relates to the limitations recited in pending claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn. To the extent that the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 7 based on Buck, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out in the next Official Action the specific features in Figure 4A of Buck, as well as the column and line numbers of the text of Buck, which support the Examiner’s position. *

In rejecting claim 8, the Examiner has asserted that Figure 4B and the corresponding text in Buck disclose: “wherein the plurality of Web sites is selected based on the frequency with which relevant links have been located in prior iterations of the method with respect to the same category.” Again, Applicant has carefully examined Figure 4B, as well as any corresponding text in Buck, and has been unable to find any aspect of Buck that teaches the limitation recited in claim 8. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn. To the extent that the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 8 over Buck, it is again respectfully requested that the specific features in Figure 4B, as well as the column and line number of the text in Buck which supports the rejection, be pointed out to Applicant in the next Official Action.

With respect to pending claim 11, the Examiner has asserted that col. 7, lines 1-4 of Buck teach the following limitation: “(f) compiling a list of words based on the frequency with which such words have appeared in relevant links located in prior iterations of the method with respect to the same category.” Buck, at col. 7, lines 1-14, reads as follows: *

“Referring to Fig. 2B, an interface to the URL position manager is shown displaying a link 41 to change the password or

personal information of the subscriber account holder, then a listing of all cites maintained in the account, referenced by the current rank within the particular category/sub-category, the denominated values (fees paid) 43 for the listings, the URL addresses 44 for the cites, the category locations 45, the expiration dates 46 for the cite listings, listings update buttons 47, listings removal buttons 48, and Add New URL Button 49. The Add New URL feature offers the use of the ability to enter a new listing and select the main category and sub-category deemed most appropriate. Once the user completes the necessary information, they are returned to the URL position manager menu at block 22.”

Applicant has carefully reviewed the above quoted passage of Buck, and is unable to see how this passage in Buck teaches or suggests step (f) of claim 11. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is not anticipated by Buck.

Turning now to pending claim 23, this claim stands rejected for anticipation in view of the O’Neil reference. Applicant respectfully submits that several aspects of claim 23 are not shown by O’Neil. First, with respect to the limitation stating “wherein said processor selects a plurality of Web sites relating to a category to which the specified subject relates,” the Examiner has cited to col. 1, lines 30-32 of O’Neil which state as follows:

“After logging on to a data network, such as the Internet, a subscriber may visit various Web sites hosted by any number of information providers.”

It is respectfully submitted that the above cited passage from O’Neil does not disclose the selection of a plurality of Web sites relating to a specified category by a processor, as required by claim 23. In O’Neil, the sites are selected by the subscriber – rather than a processor. In addition, O’Neil does not teach that the selected sites relate to a specified category, as set forth in claim 23.

Referring again to pending claim 23, and specifically the limitation that states “wherein said processor determines the relevancy of at least one Web page in each

selected Web site by scanning for words relating to the specified subject,” the Examiner has cited to col. 12, lines 14-30 of O’Neil, which read as follows:

“The cost spawning device 800 may also offer advice/assistance to the subscriber for other circumstances than those described above. For example, if the subscriber searches for a specific article using one of the available search engines, and the author of the article is unavailable for conversation, the cost spawning device 800 may spawn a connection between the subscriber and the author for a real time “live” discussion. If the cost spawning device 800 detects that the subscriber is having difficulty in using the browser, for example, the cost spawning device 800 may either offer immediate assistance via a message or spawn a call between the subscriber and the call assistant familiar with the browser to help resolve the difficulty. Thus, the cost spawning device 800 may serve as a help enabler for any subject matter for which there is an available expert.”

The above cited passage from Buck fails to teach making a relevancy determination with a processor, as set forth in claim 23. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that Buck does not anticipate claim 23. *

Referring still to claim 23, and specifically to the limitation stating “wherein said processor determines the content type of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words indicating content type,” the Examiner has cited to col. 12, lines 39-49 of O’Neil which state as follows: *

“When the subscriber logs on to the data network 302, the user device 200 may send a message to the cost spawning device 800 to indicate that the cost spawning support processes should be started for the subscriber. The controller 802 may retrieve from the database 806 the subscriber profile and history information similar to the information stored in the database 600 as shown in Fig. 10. However, the information stored in the database 806 is not restricted to a single Web site. The controller 802 opens an action history file for the subscriber and tracks the subscriber’s actions on the data network 302 by storing shadow data of each selected item.”

The above-cited passage from Buck fails to disclose the determination of content type by a processor, as set forth in claim 23. For this further reason, it is respectfully submitted

that Buck fails to anticipate claim 23, and the Examiner's rejection of claim 23 in view of Buck should therefore be withdrawn.

With respect to dependent claim 12, the Examiner has asserted that the limitation reciting "wherein the list of relevant Web pages is compiled in step (d) by including only those Web pages that are determined both to be relevant in step (b) and to be of a news content in step (c)," is shown in col. 12, lines 25-31 and 56-59 of Ainsbury, which read as follows:

"Info Item: The specific data element that is returned to the user upon request for retrieval. Associated with one or more Catalog Collection Items. For each document, there are one or more Info Items that can be collected from it. At a minimum, the full document is an Info Item. Additional, finer grained Info Items can be added which represent extracted portion of a document... Users can use additional data elements to any case either through the system's automated collection or through the system's "source-specific search" feature or from documents they located via browsing."

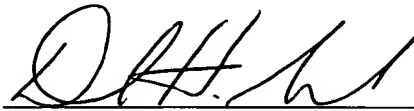
The above quoted portions of Ainsbury fail to disclose the limitations in claim 12 requiring that the list include only Web pages that are both relevant and of a news content type. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case with obviousness with respect to claim 12, and accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of this claim in view of Ainsbury should be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth immediately above with respect to claim 12, it is also respectfully submitted that the Ainsbury reference fails to teach the limitations of dependent claim 13, and that the Examiner has similarly failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to pending claim 13.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable over the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.H. Golub", written over a horizontal line.

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CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. A method of providing news relating to a specified subject to a subscriber, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) selecting a plurality of Web sites relating to a category to which the specified subject relates;
 - (b) automatically determining the relevancy of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning at least one Web page for words relating to the specified subject;
 - (c) automatically determining the content type of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning at least one Web page for words indicating content type;
 - (d) compiling a list of relevant Web pages based on the results of steps (b) and (c); and
 - (e) providing the compiled list to the subscriber.

21. A computer-readable medium tangibly embodying instructions which, when executed by a computer, implement a process comprising the steps of:
 - (a) selecting a plurality of Web sites relating to a category to which the specified subject relates;
 - (b) automatically determining the relevancy of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words relating to the specified subject;
 - (c) automatically determining the content type of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words indicating content type;

(d) compiling a list of relevant Web pages based on the results of steps (b) and (c); and

(e) providing the compiled list to the subscriber.

22. A system for providing news relating to a specified subject to a subscriber, comprising:

means for selecting a plurality of Web sites relating to a category to which the specified subject relates;

means for automatically determining the relevancy of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words relating to the specified subject;

means for automatically determining the content type of at least one Web page in each selected Web site by scanning for words indicating content type;

means for compiling a list of relevant Web pages based on the results of the scanning; and

means for providing the compiled list to the subscriber.